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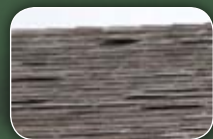
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editor's note



APPLES, PIE, CIDER, JEANS AND LONG-SLEEVE SHIRTS; these are the first things that come to mind when I think about fall – five of my very favourite things. All combined with a crisp cool day just about equals perfection.

Harvest season arrives just as my appetite returns and all I can think about is food. Roast turkey, homemade stuffing, mashed potatoes, baked Brie, creamy soup, fresh bread... I could go on and on. Warm, delicious comfort food shared with family and friends, followed by a bonfire or a relaxing drive through the vibrant valley, would all be part of my ideal day.

It's often on these drives that I come across the many farmers' markets and fruit stands that

nourish our region day in and day out. Grey Bruce's harvest menu is vast and on it you'll find everything you need to keep your family healthy and happy throughout the year. OUR HOMES recognizes the hard work and dedication that's put into producing such tasty fare; that's why we're introducing you to some of your local food producers on page 48. From livestock to produce and poultry to apple pie, you can find the best of it all right here, close to home.

When I'm not in the kitchen I can usually be found fussing with something or other around the house. Everything indoors gets a bit neglected through the summer months as I feel guilty for every minute I hide from the sun. Now that the days are cooler and shorter though, I can fuss all I want, which is precisely what our homeowners near Hanover wanted to avoid.

Eric and Sherry Hallman wanted a nice country home close to work that they could kick back and relax in, and peace and quiet is just what they got with their newly-built log home (page 40) surrounded by towering trees and rolling hills.

Further north resides another couple, Gary and Chris Moffat, who also sought a more relaxed lifestyle closer to nature, but in a much different setting. By renovating Chris's family cottage on Barrow Bay in Lion's Head (page 20), they're now able to enjoy beachfront living year-round in their gorgeous, contemporary home.

Fall is the perfect time for interior projects and renovations. If you're planning on putting in new cabinetry or need any custom woodwork, visit Exquisite Wood Designs on page 34, and if you're looking for new items to style your home this autumn, we've got you covered on page 18.

Get with the season... Change into some comfy clothes, EAT, drink and be merry!

See you in December,

Shelby

Shelby Hilson, Managing Editor
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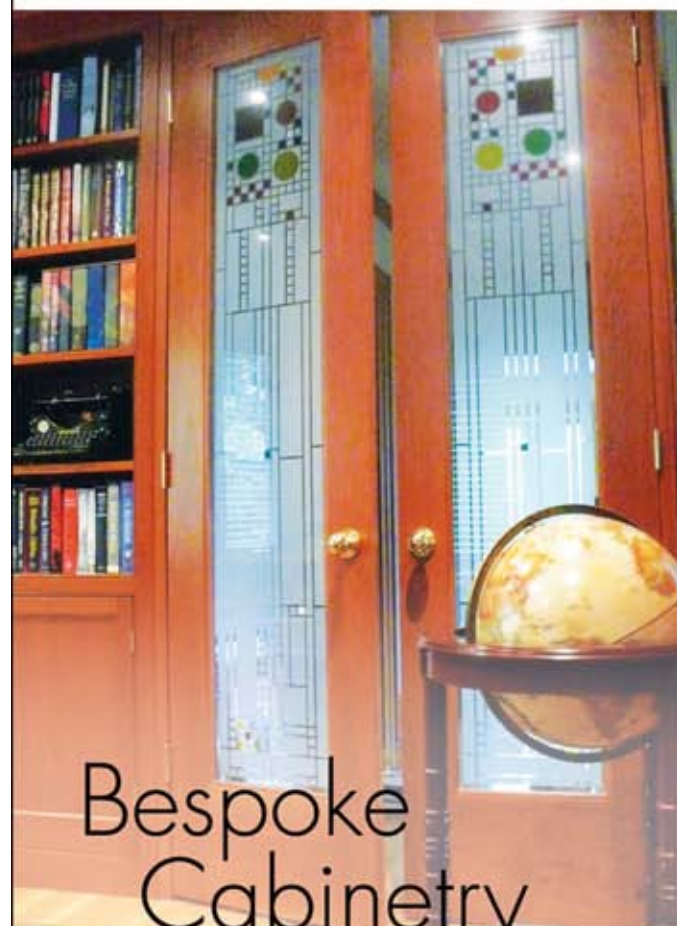
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in Lion's Head
Story, page 20.
Photography by
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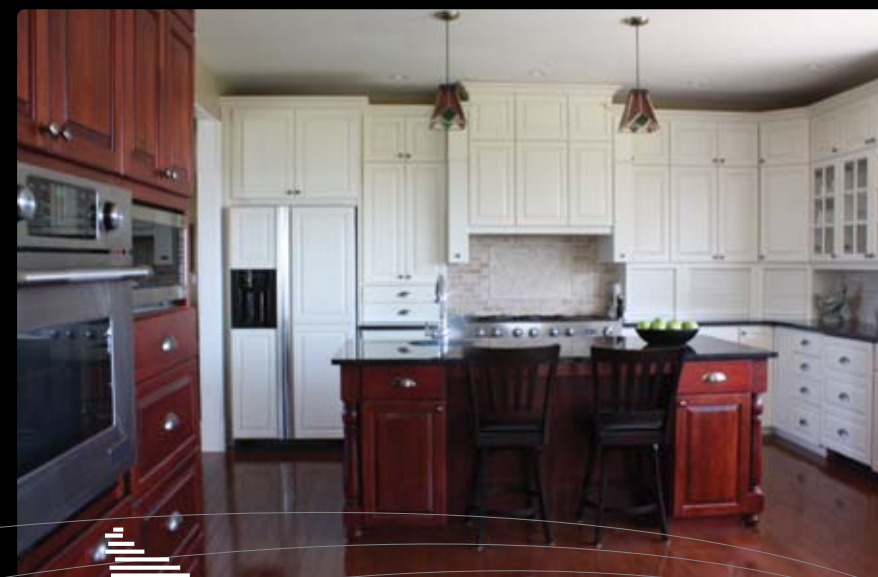
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MUDROOM *makeover*

We have decided to build an addition onto our home in order to accommodate a mudroom and more storage space. Do you have any tips or hints to help us make our new room work for our family? We have no idea where to even begin. – Carol

QUICK TIP: An easy way to add softness to your mudroom (and necessary storage) is by using baskets. When selecting your baskets, make sure they are just deep enough to fold a scarf or store a bulky pair of gloves. Things get lost at the bottom of deeper baskets and become disorganized too quickly.

As much as I would appreciate my home always looking as though it's in the middle of a photo shoot, it is simply impossible. We have boots, mittens, scarves, strollers, keys, mail, grocery bags, backpacks, spare change and all things made to produce clutter. Unless we dedicate a space for each item, it seems to all end up at the bottom of a basket, on the floor and just plain lost. The mudroom however, is my saving grace.

Some would argue that a mudroom is the busiest room in the house. They endure the ebb and flow of a household on a daily basis. Let's face it, it's constant abuse! If you're going to invest in an addition for your home, make sure you spend time planning. It will make that extra space go from functional to fabulous.

DESIGNING YOUR MUDROOM

A well-designed mudroom is a well-planned mudroom. Look in closets and the garage and itemize what you will keep in your mudroom. Take into account the height of boots and number of shoes, the length of jackets, the size of purses and helmets. Instead of promising to take that trip to Goodwill, plan for what you've got.

Consider the following:

- **Seating** – to put on and take off shoes
- **Hooks** – a lower level is handy for children
- **Counter** – for mail and car keys
- **Broom closet** – for regular sweeping
- **Coat closet** – for longer items

- **Baskets, cubbies or drawers** – for mittens, scarves, etc.
- **Pet station** – for leashes, food and bags
- **Grocery bin storage** – for easy access on the way out

BUILDING YOUR MUDROOM

Material selection is critical. Ensure that surfaces are hard-wearing to prevent scratches or water damage. Leave enough room in your budget for quality materials that will withstand the test of time and keep your room looking unsullied.

Consider the following:

- **Radiant heat** – this will dry the floor and your wet shoes
- **Drawers with soft closers** – to prevent slamming
- **Central vac** – install in the baseboard so you can sweep directly into it
- **Good lighting** – brighter is better
- **Slatted shelves** – for airflow so wet items can dry easily
- **Stone or slate floors** – thinner tiles could crack
- **Wood cabinetry** – a painted finish will eventually scratch or chip (but can be repainted)
- **Electrical outlets** – for charging phones

As utilitarian as this space may be, don't forget to make it chic. Just because it's where you keep your shoes doesn't mean it needs to look like a boring old closet. Have fun with it! **OH**

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The nights may be getting cooler, but your home can be looking hotter than ever with this season’s interior finds. PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX



1

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3



5

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(5) Side Table

The distressed, botanical design of this accent table will add a pop of colour and femininity to any room. A drawer and cupboard provide hidden storage for bedside basics and reading material. Perfect for the cottage-style or shabby chic home!

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4

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6

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BY LAUREL FORTIN // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

JUNIPER LODGE *calling*



Closing up her Bruce Peninsula cottage at the end of the summer in 2007, Chris Moffat must have sighed wistfully, as she had done every fall for the 50-something years of her life. Her parents had first brought her to the family retreat on Barrow Bay on the eastern side of the peninsula in a clothes basket when she was two months old. Summers of her girlhood were spent exploring with cousins and neighbouring cottage children along the shoreline. Autumns, winters and springs back home in Dundas were spent dreaming about summers past and to come.

But after she closed up the cottage that fall, everything changed. Within the span of three months, her husband Gary had retired from his job at Hamilton steel giant Stelco and had been offered a position with a national steel company that allowed him to work from home. Without blinking, Chris and Gary decided that “home” would become the family cottage, Juniper Lodge. Chris, a 30-year operating room nurse, received positions at the rural hospitals of Grey Bruce Heath Services in Wiarton and Lion's Head. “It was always my dream to finish my nursing career up here on the Bruce,” she says. “We feel now that we live and work in paradise!”

The couple's Dundas home went up for sale and sold within days, and, by December, their year-round address was on Barrow Bay.

Word spread around the bay that these weekenders were now full-timers. From Lion's Head, friend of 20 years **Barry Hepburn** of **Hepburn Masonry & Contracting** agreed to take on the major renovation, turning Chris and Gary's family cottage into a luxury home. Hepburn is also responsible for all the masonry work – using materials from **Shouldice Designer Stone** in Shallow Lake.

Through the summer of 2008, the couple worked with Lion's Head-based architect **Greg Williamson** to tweak the homeowners' design vision. After having experienced more than 50 seasons on the property, Chris knew just which aspects of the 1945 cottage she wanted to accentuate, and which she wanted to adjust. *Continued on page 22*



TOP: Homeowners Chris and Gary Moffat captured a gorgeous rainbow colouring the peninsula that's their backyard. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Glass deck railings without top rails offer an unobstructed view of the bay from the couple's back deck. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Gary, a trained pilot, often explores the peninsula's skies in a Cessna while Chris takes aerial photos of their Barrow Bay property.

Chris's longtime family cottage was renovated in an open-concept style to include the living room, dining room, kitchen and bar area in one large space - creating an ideal entertaining atmosphere. **TOP RIGHT:** Chris's grandfather's century-old dental office desk adds character to the contemporary space. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Crafted by Chris's other grandfather, Jack Crowley, at his steel manufacturing company, this fireplace was converted to gas and holds special meaning for the family.



The original cottage was a luxury in its time. With 1,200 sq. ft. and four bedrooms built on a concrete foundation poured directly on the rocky shore stone, it had ample room for Chris's extended family. Her grandfather, Jack Crowley, owned a steel manufacturing factory in Dundas making boilers. Fishing on Barrow Bay was his escape, and building the cottage was his passion. "He erected a big water tower for water pressure and a windmill so that we had power. We were the only cottage up here with flushing toilets and showers," recalls Chris.

Two-foot thick walls with windows of whatever size they could muster up at the time and a vaulted ceiling allowed big views out to the blue waters of the bay. In Chris and Gary's renovation, the northeastern wall

facing the water was pushed out another 30 feet and is nearly entirely in glass (Bonneville windows supplied by **Scott's Home Hardware** in Lion's Head). The sundeck beyond is fitted with solid glass railings, designed by **Star Glass Service** in Owen Sound, and have no top rail so as not to impede the view. "We wanted the back wall to disappear into the water. I tried to match the Georgian Bay blue, and used a shade called Black Pepper, by Benjamin Moore, (Scott's Home Hardware)" says Chris. The effect is so nautical that the home feels as though it's afloat on the Bay.

Gary now, perhaps, is more intimate with Barrow Bay than Chris. His home office in a corner of the great room overlooks the water. Furnished in part with the antique Jacobean spiral barley twist table and chair from

Chris's paternal grandfather's 1900s dental office, Gary conducts business meetings while watching waves crash on the beach and gales carry in the winter snow. "The first time I brought Gary up here nearly 30 years ago, he went down to the beach and said, 'Why the heck would you ever build a cottage here?' and about two hours later he realized why," smiles Chris.

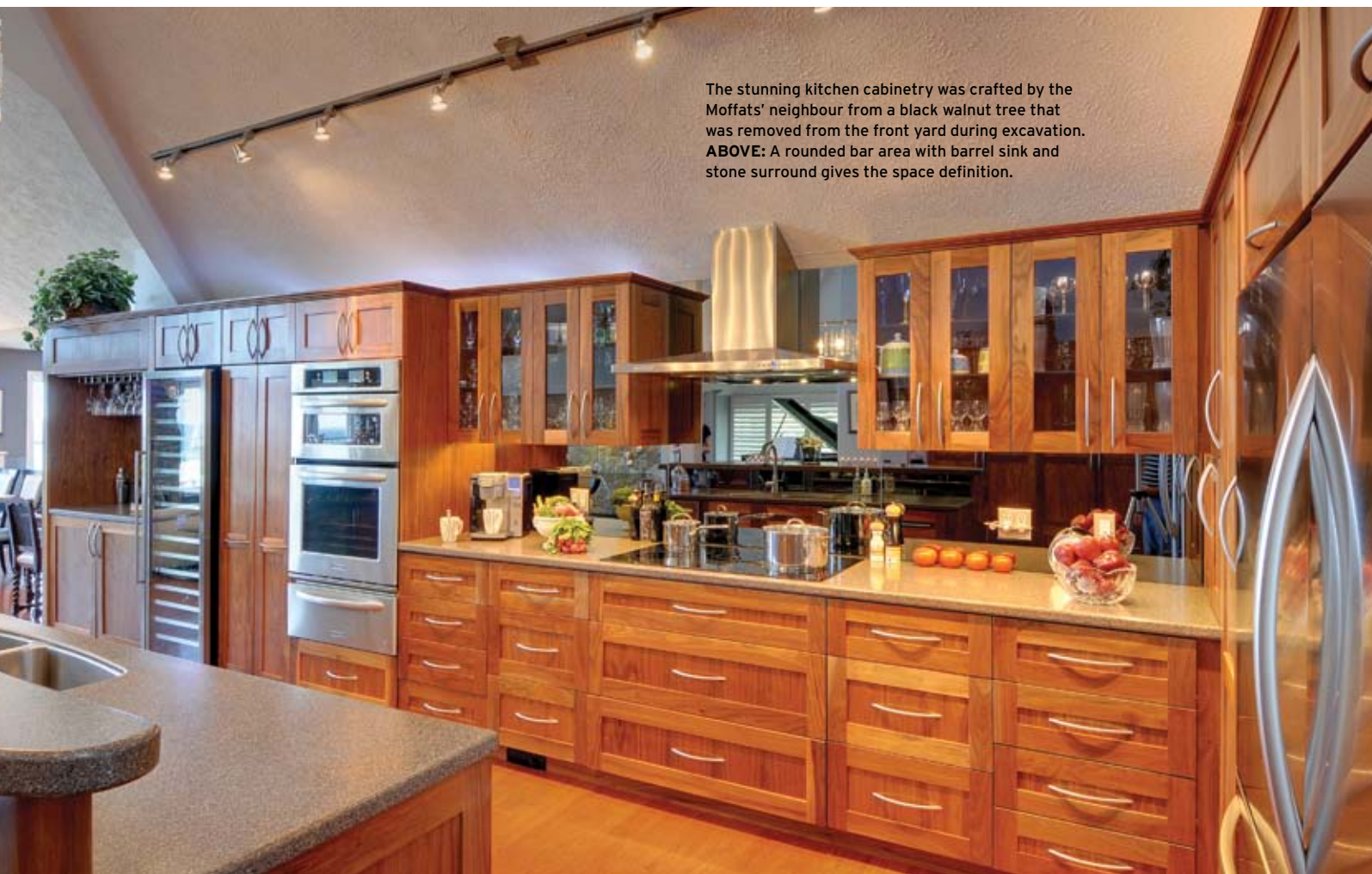
Gary tunes into the ship-to-shore radio that relays weather and water conditions periodically from the Thunder Bay coast guard. "We talk with friends that are sailing by," explains Chris. "Our call name is Juniper," so-called by her grandfather in years past. "There was one juniper bush in the backyard that all the diapers were dried on. It's hard to keep junipers up here, but my grandparents just loved the name." *Continued on page 24*



Gary also loves to explore the skies of the Bruce – a pilot since he was 18. When the whim strikes, he will rent a Cessna out of Wiarton and go up with friends or Chris and soar over the Bruce, sometimes crossing Georgian Bay to land in Killarney for fish and chips.

Both Gary and Chris love to entertain. Whether it's family and friends who come up for the weekend, or generations of neighbouring cottagers who have been popping in for 50 years or more, all guests know they're welcome to help themselves at the generously stocked kitchen (**Peninsula Appliances & TV's**, Lion's Head).

When excavation began on the renovation (Landscaping by **Rydall Contracting**), a few trees had to be cut on the property to make way. "We had to take down the black walnut that my aunt had started in a cup from a nut my grandmother gave her. There's a painting of the cottage done in 1945 where you can see the little walnut tree starting to grow out front," says Chris. From across the street, neighbouring cabinetmaker and wood lover **Rick Gore** had admired the tree for years. "He suggested that we keep the wood to make a beautiful kitchen," says Chris. Gary adds, "Unbeknownst to us, **Cory Rydall** had the wood taken away, boarded and brought back for us. We kept it on the property for two years and kept turning it every few months to dry." When the walnut was ready, Rick lovingly crafted the kitchen, master bath and entrance wardrobe out of the gorgeous material. Complemented by a mirror backsplash from **Star Glass Service** in Owen Sound, the kitchen is the jewel of the cottage. *Continued on page 26*



The stunning kitchen cabinetry was crafted by the Moffatts' neighbour from a black walnut tree that was removed from the front yard during excavation. **ABOVE:** A rounded bar area with barrel sink and stone surround gives the space definition.

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The main-floor master bedroom boasts a magnificent view of the bay through large windows and patio doors. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The hot tub sits just outside the couple's bedroom and is the perfect spot to listen to the waves on a starry night. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The master bath features a luxurious soaker tub and glassed-in shower.



Chris and Gary hope to last out their years in Juniper Lodge, and designed it so that it would age along with them. While guest quarters are on the lower level, all amenities are on the main floor. Bathrooms have walk-in showers with seating designed by **Larry Woodworth at Dy's Plumbing Supplies** and the in-floor radiant heating installed by **Ray Westover of RW Mechanical** keeps the home comfortable throughout the year. Gas fireplaces by **The Fyre Place & Patio Shop**, a home entertainment system by **Fast Forward** in Owen Sound and furniture and home décor items from **Home By Design** and **Cedar Country Furniture** in Wiarton, round out the creature comforts for the couple.

"We tried to keep everything as local as we could and are we ever glad we did," says Chris. "The people we worked with were nothing less than outstanding and we wouldn't hesitate to recommend them to anyone." **OH**



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PHOTOS AND STORY BY MELANIE REKOLA

As autumn comes to be, ornamental grasses take centre stage of many beautiful landscapes. I adore watching the fall breeze rustle through their mature foliage; often with silver, pink or bronze seed heads nodding high above. Certain grasses even turn colour in fall, adding a whole different dimension to their aesthetic worth. I find many people tend to forget about the autumn garden when designing their landscapes. Take a critical eye to your garden; with fall in mind. Sometimes a landscape just looks past-its-prime at this time of year, with no gorgeous flowers at the forefront. Or maybe you need a focal point with a textural change of pace. Trendy ornamental grasses may be the piece you need to update and add movement to an otherwise static garden.

Continued on page 30



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MELANIE’S PLANT PICKS:

Zebra Grass (*Miscanthus sinensis* Zebrinus): I love Zebra grass for its wonderful horizontal yellow striping, and its elegant arching habit. It is often confused with “Porcupine” grass for its similar markings, but Porcupine has a much stiffer and rougher appearance than Zebra. Zebra grows five feet plus and its thick leaves and unusual markings make it a wonderful statement plant or perfect for planting en masse.

Giant Miscanthus (*Miscanthus x Giganteus*): This grass is truly a giant, growing eight feet plus. Great for a space where height is needed, but there’s not much room available for planting. It has a thick, mid-green leaf with an arching habit and is great as a privacy screen or to add a somewhat “tropical” effect to any yard. I especially like it around pools for exactly this reason. Though it rarely blooms within most parts of Canada, it’s still worth planting solely for its foliage size and texture.

Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*): An eye-catching grass that also grows about five feet in height. The lush green leaves of mid-summer give way to distinctive three-part seedheads with a purplish colour. The grand finale of the growing season occurs when the leaves turn a reddish-copper colour.

Karl Foerster Reed Grass (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* Karl Foerster): Though this grass is commonly used, I still find it irresistible. Its seed heads are very unique and look somewhat like wheat. It is extremely hardy and drought/salt tolerant. Mass planting is best and it has an early spring show of growth that not many other grasses possess. Look for new varieties of this grass with white or green margins.

Maidenhair (*Miscanthus sinensis*): I use five-foot maidenhair grass for its beautiful ultra fine texture and its great contrast with larger leafed plants and large stone pieces. It has gorgeous seed plums as well! Look for varieties such as “Morning Light,” “Huron Sunrise” or “Graziella” for a variety of foliage and seed head colours.



Sometimes space just doesn’t allow for such large and bold plantings as mentioned above. Dwarf grasses are the answer to a much daintier statement.

Blue Fescue and other dwarf grasses: Adding blue foliage such as “Elijah Blue Fescue” can really brighten up the autumn landscape. The colour is very complementary to much of the oranges and golds that naturally occur in fall. Though these grasses are small, a mass planting of five or more makes a beautiful statement to any garden. Other dwarf grasses to look for are dwarf maidenhair, little Bluestem (for fall colour) and dwarf fountain grass; all great for rock gardens as well.

Ornamental grasses offer a unique opportunity for a vertical element, much different than what small trees and shrubs offer. Their herbaceous nature makes them ideal for difficult areas prone to snow piling where an upright plant component is needed. Bear in mind, fall is not the best time to plant grasses. Spring is the ideal planting time and will give you a great rate of survival.

I have seen whole gardens planted with only grasses that look so distinct in their uniformity, so don’t be afraid of adding different varieties to one area. Try planting a grass (or three) in an area toward the middle to front of a garden bed. This can add an unexpected surprise and really give a fresh sense of randomness that is often lost in gardens that are seemingly “too planned.” Best of luck! **OH**



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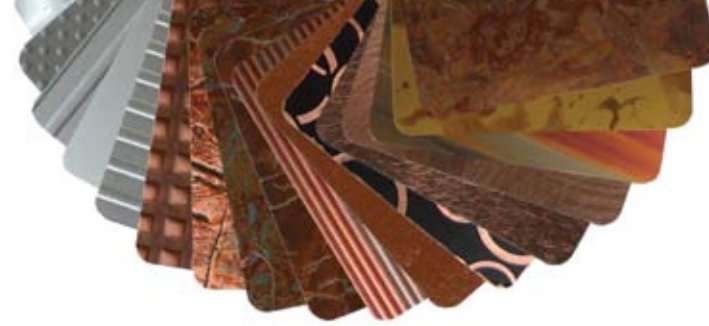
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THE PROJECT: The team at EWD recently worked with homeowners outside Meaford to create some beautiful rooms and features in their new home (as seen in these photos). A complete custom and highly functional kitchen, a baker's pantry, a contemporary laundry room with ample storage, a gorgeous fireplace surround and a uniquely designed laundry room are all testaments to the care, talent and professionalism that goes into all of their work. The bathroom vanities and trim work throughout the home are also EWD's handiwork.

SEASONAL: As the season turns, homeowners are focusing on interior projects. Custom furniture, wall units, closet organizers, bars and wine cellars take precedence. "The fact that we can design just about anything keeps us busy right through the off season," explains John.

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ENSURING YOUR INSURANCE

BY JILL ELLIS

Catastrophes across the world have put the insurance industry under a spotlight over the past few years, with typhoons in Thailand, hurricanes along the U.S. Gulf Coast and earthquakes in Chile, just to name a few.

Homeowners may feel a sense of panic when empathizing with families in these unfortunate locales, but what level of insurance is reasonable when dealing with the kinds of weather-related emergencies that we experience in Ontario? Typhoons and hurricanes don't affect us, but landslides, floods, blizzards or tornadoes can and do happen regularly.

How much home insurance is enough?

"You need enough insurance to rebuild from the ground up, including debris removal," says Kevin Hodgins, secretary-treasurer, Southwestern Ontario Chapter, Insurance Institute of Ontario. This could be more than the price of your home because of the economies of scale: contractors get good deals on labour and material when building many homes at the same time, but rebuilding one home can cost much more.

Or it could cost less, according to Brian Maltman, executive director at General Insurance OmbudService. "You get overheated markets like Toronto, where homes in some parts of the city are selling for many times (more than) what it would take to rebuild them."

How much is too much?

No one wants to be "insurance poor," but being seriously over-insured is almost guaranteed not to happen, according to Maltman, because of the way insurance companies calculate the replacement value of your house.

What kinds of insurance do I need?

A package or comprehensive policy ensures that the building itself is insured, as well as the contents and the mortgage are all covered. Other types of coverage are also part of a comprehensive policy, like riders on special items or items of greater value. This type of policy also usually includes liability insurance.

Contents insurance is limited, according to Maltman, so it's a good idea to have expensive jewelry appraised (or other items that fall outside the normal range of value for your type of house) and covered with a rider.

"Be aware that there are limitations on things like jewelry, furs, computer software, collector items – and sometimes even bicycles and silverware. Go over the limitations with your agent or broker," urges Hodgins.

Mortgage insurance ensures that the lender is covered in the case of injury or death of one or more of the owners. It can also ensure that the house is paid off through insurance, so as not to be a burden to the surviving spouse.

One million dollars is the usual amount for liability within most comprehensive policies. This protects the homeowner in case someone is injured on their property. Some policies include \$2 million liability coverage.

What's not covered?

"Floods," says Maltman. "Because they are predictable (in some areas) and because they usually involve many houses."

He says, however, a flood due to a sewer back-up is usually covered by comprehensive policies.

What about deductibles?

A higher deductible means a lower premium and vice versa. This is because most claims are on the lower end, says Maltman. "Ask yourself, 'Could I afford to pay that first \$1,000 (if that's your deductible amount)?' That's the first question," he adds. If the answer is no, a \$1,000 payout would be tough, go with a lower deductible and higher premium.

What questions should I ask?

When buying a new home: "Question the seller about any water-related losses. If they have occurred, ask what steps were taken to ensure it wouldn't happen again," says Hodgins.

When renewing insurance annually: "Ask yourself if there's anything you should talk over with your broker or agent," cautions Maltman. Have you done extensive renovations that would affect the replacement cost of your home; have you purchased expensive art or jewelry; has anything changed in your home in the past year?

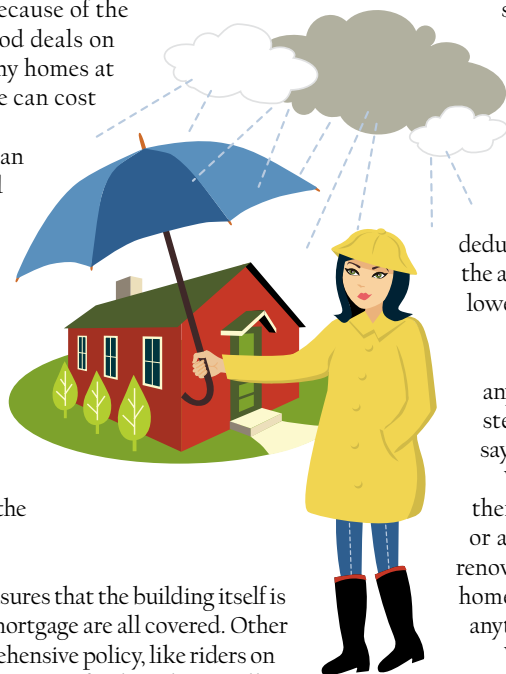
What should I be aware of?

There are discounts allowed if you have fire or burglary protection systems, being mortgage free and often for insuring your house and car with the same insurer, according to Hodgins.

The bottom line:

"There are discounts for being and remaining claims free, so consider your insurance as protecting against disasters rather than a home maintenance policy," says Hodgins. **OH**

For more information: www.giocanada.org, www.insuranceinstitute.ca



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feature

The Colonial Concepts Log Home was shipped to its current location on 10 acres of forest and rolling hills near Hanover, then constructed by Chris Schaus of Inline Builders. **OPPOSITE MIDDLE LEFT:** Guests are welcomed to the country by this rustic sign at the end of their long laneway. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM LEFT:** A charming garden shed to match the house. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM RIGHT:** Homeowners Sherry and Eric Hallman enjoy working in one of the many beautiful gardens planted on the property.



A rustic wooden sign before a bright forest backdrop of cedars, pine and bright maples states: WELCOME TO OUR COUNTRY SHACK. The welcoming sentiment is genuine. The friendly hospitality of Eric and Sherry Hallman is never in doubt as they invite you into their comfortable log country home between Durham and Hanover.

A correction – the new log home the two have custom built is far from the ski shack that once stood on these grounds.

The gravel laneway to the home is covered by a high forest canopy of towering trees that protects one’s passage when snow falls and leads to a rustic log home set in a country landscape of forested rolling hills.

The Hallmans chose this 10-acre site because of its proximity to their workplace, **Hallman Motors** in Hanover. “It’s only 10 minutes from town,” says Sherry. “After working with the public all day, it’s nice to escape for a while. The house is simple but nice and quiet. It’s so private. We love it here!” *Continued on page 43*



SKI SHACK TO Country Estate

BY JIM FOX // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY



A huge slab island with bar seating provides a great space for the Hallmans to entertain guests and prepare tasty feasts. **BELOW LEFT:** The dining area off the kitchen is set for a simple lunch. **BELOW RIGHT:** Antique furniture and collectibles acquired over the years give the new kitchen a familiar comfort.



The house, a **Colonial Concepts Log Homes** model was shipped to the present site from Lindsay, Ontario and the logs were stacked then constructed by **Chris Schaus** of **Inline Builders**, who is also responsible for the stunning interior finishing.

Eric and Sherry lived for almost three years in a small house on the property while their dream home was being constructed. This transition home was built in the late '50s on the foundation of a cross-country ski chalet.

The terrain, so suitable for skiing, is what originally attracted the homeowners. In Eric's words, "We've had this parcel of land for seven or eight years. We spent some time looking for a piece of property in the country with plans of building some day. The reason we liked this site is because there was no level land. In fall the property is really, really nice." Sherry agrees, "In the fall, with our eastern exposure, as the sun goes down in the west, the reflections make the maple bush look like it's on fire – it's awesome."

Excavating and designing of the "flow" of the land was done by **Cedarwell Excavating** with input from Schaus. **Ground Effects Landscapes** of Hanover prepared and seeded the planted areas, and this season, Schaus added a unique curved entrance path of interlocking brick from **Grey Bruce Brick & Landscape Supply** of Hanover. The many attractive flowerbeds enhancing the home, created by Sherry herself, provide a stunning backdrop for the garden crafts she creates. "Flowers are my passion," she smiles.

"I always had in mind a log home," she says. "Now I can fill it with family heirlooms and antiques that I've collected over the years." The historic pieces that grace the home seem to have always existed here. The furniture complements the comfortable country interior. From the refurbished dining set to the unique, antique dressers and bureaus found in the master bedroom, the treasured pieces that Sherry has introduced are perfectly at home in the rustic setting.

"We looked at plans for years," explains Sherry, "focusing on the outside rather than the inside," Eric adds, "We found the exterior of the house we liked with Colonial Concepts, then we designed the interior ourselves." Inside, the Hallmans wanted an open-concept design for easy entertaining. In their previous home, the couple found that their space was broken up and guests inevitably gathered in the kitchen. Their new, much more spacious kitchen includes a huge island and stainless steel appliances (**Modern Appliance Centre** in Hanover) and has become, as expected, the social hub of their new home too, except no one is left out here. Sherry helped Schaus design the solid wood cabinetry and Schaus built and installed the cabinets.

Continued on page 44



A solid wood staircase anchors the open-concept living space and leads upstairs to the guest rooms and downstairs to the walkout basement. **BELOW LEFT:** An incredibly efficient geothermal system installed by Tom Ramage of Northern Heating and Ventilation. **BELOW MIDDLE:** A woodworker lifts firewood from the basement to the main floor, next to the fireplace. **BELOW RIGHT:** With a crackling fire, the living room represents true country comfort.



feature

The large master bath lets in lots of natural light and has plenty of charm with a relaxing vessel tub, his-and-her pedestal sinks and glassed-in shower. **TOP RIGHT:** The Hallmans used antique furniture pieces as washstands and bathroom storage throughout the home to maintain the country allure. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The master bedroom sports a colourful quilt and direct access to the deck through double patio doors.



Next to the food preparation area, a refinished mid-century modern dining table painted a tasteful cream is ready to accommodate visiting guests. "I love this table," says Sherry. "It has plenty of extra leaves for occasions like Thanksgiving when we have all the family home."

A wood-burning fireplace, faced in river-rock cultured stone, rises 23 feet to the cathedral ceiling and is the focal point of the family room. A unique feature is the woodwaiver that allows Eric to easily lift logs from the basement to a wood box beside the hearth. "The fireplace basically heats the entire house in winter," Eric says. "It saves a lot in energy." So does the home's state of the art geothermal energy plant installed by **Tom Ramage** of **Northern Heating and Ventilation** in Owen Sound. The modern water furnace and in-floor heating for tiled areas, along with forced air, air conditioning provide the Hallmans with energy-efficient cool summers and warm winters. "Tom and his people were more than accommodating in helping me spec a system out for our new home," says Eric. "They had someone come in and give us a couple of different options on systems and explained why they went with the system they did, and it all made sense to me. There was no cutting corners with Tom and I now understand why."

The main floor of the Hallman home is purposely designed by the homeowners to allow for easy flow-through of people with an eye to functionality. The large three-car garage has easy access to the kitchen via a mudroom. Steps away lies a large laundry room with a modern combination washer/dryer, complete with lots of freezer space and a vintage mid-century sink.

The master bedroom, beside the family room, opens onto the huge sun deck. The en suite bathroom with its modern stand-alone tub and large glassed-in shower, like all the main floor spaces, is flooded with natural light and provides a wonderful view of the forest beyond.

"We designed the home to be plain and easy," states Sherry. "We wanted the office and guest bedrooms upstairs and everything on the main floor to be within reach and easily accessible." The couple's hopes have been realized.

The owners' thorough pre-planning results in a comfortable country home that is both practical and beautiful. This cosy log home is at one with its environment and in sync with the couple's busy lives. **OH**

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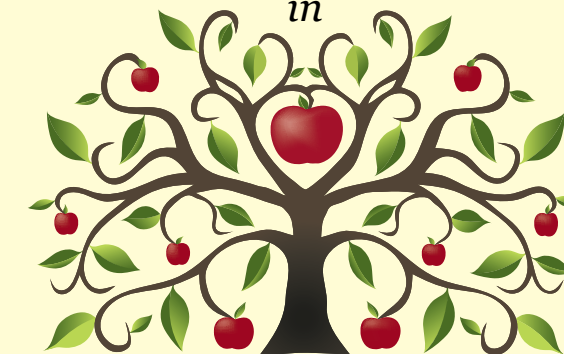
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PICKLED DILLY BEANS

BY MARIA DASILVA // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT HUNTER



One of the best ways to make summer last through the long hard months of winter is preserving. Sure, it may seem counterintuitive to stand before a hot stove over a steaming vat of boiling water for hours on end in the middle of a heat wave. But come January, when a look out the window reveals a whitewashed and frozen landscape, your efforts will be rewarded.

One of my favourite things to “put up” is green beans. Every year I grow too many of them in my garden. And while I do love fresh beans, one gets tired of eating them night after night. This simple (and quicker than most) pickle is a great way to bring a taste of summer to your table any time of year. It's also a great introductory pickle for first timers. It's almost no-fail, it doesn't take hours and the results are amazing.

Use your pickled beans as you would any pickle. They make great partners to ham and cheese sandwiches, or make a fantastic garnish for a spicy Caesar (drink, not salad!). They also make a great late-night snack straight from the jar!

Happy preserving!



RECIPE:

Makes four 500 ml jars

2 lb green beans, approx – you can also use a combination of green and yellow beans

8 small sprigs fresh dill

4 cloves garlic, halved

4 tsp peppercorns

4 tsp pickling spice

½ to ¼ tsp crushed red pepper flakes (optional)

2 ½ cups water

2 ½ cups white vinegar

2 tbsp pickling salt

TO PREPARE:

- Trim stem ends from beans. Cut into about 3.5-inch lengths and set aside.
- Into each of the four 500 mL canning jars, place two sprigs of dill, two pieces garlic, 1 tsp peppercorns, 1 tsp pickling spice and a pinch of red pepper flakes.
- Pack beans, cut sides up, into jars as tightly as possible.
- Meanwhile, bring water, vinegar and salt to boil. Reduce heat and simmer for three minutes. Add hot liquid to jars to within a half-inch of top of jar. Using a non-metallic utensil, remove air bubbles and adjust headspace (distance between liquid and top of jar) by adding more beans or hot liquid as required.
- Cover with prepared lids. Screw on bands until resistance is met; then increase to fingertip tight. Boil in boiling water canner for 10 minutes. Remove from water and let cool completely on racks.

For new-comers to preserving, or experienced preservers looking for a little inspiration, check out Bernardin's website for a wealth of tips, trouble-shooting and a huge selection of recipes. www.bernardin.ca **OH**

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FIND US: At the farm or at farmers' markets in Kincardine on Saturdays and Walkerton on Fridays. *Continued on page 50*

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FIND US: At the farm or at farmers' markets in Meaford on Fridays and Collingwood on Saturdays.



◀ Grace Lambe (Grandma)

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Continued on page 52

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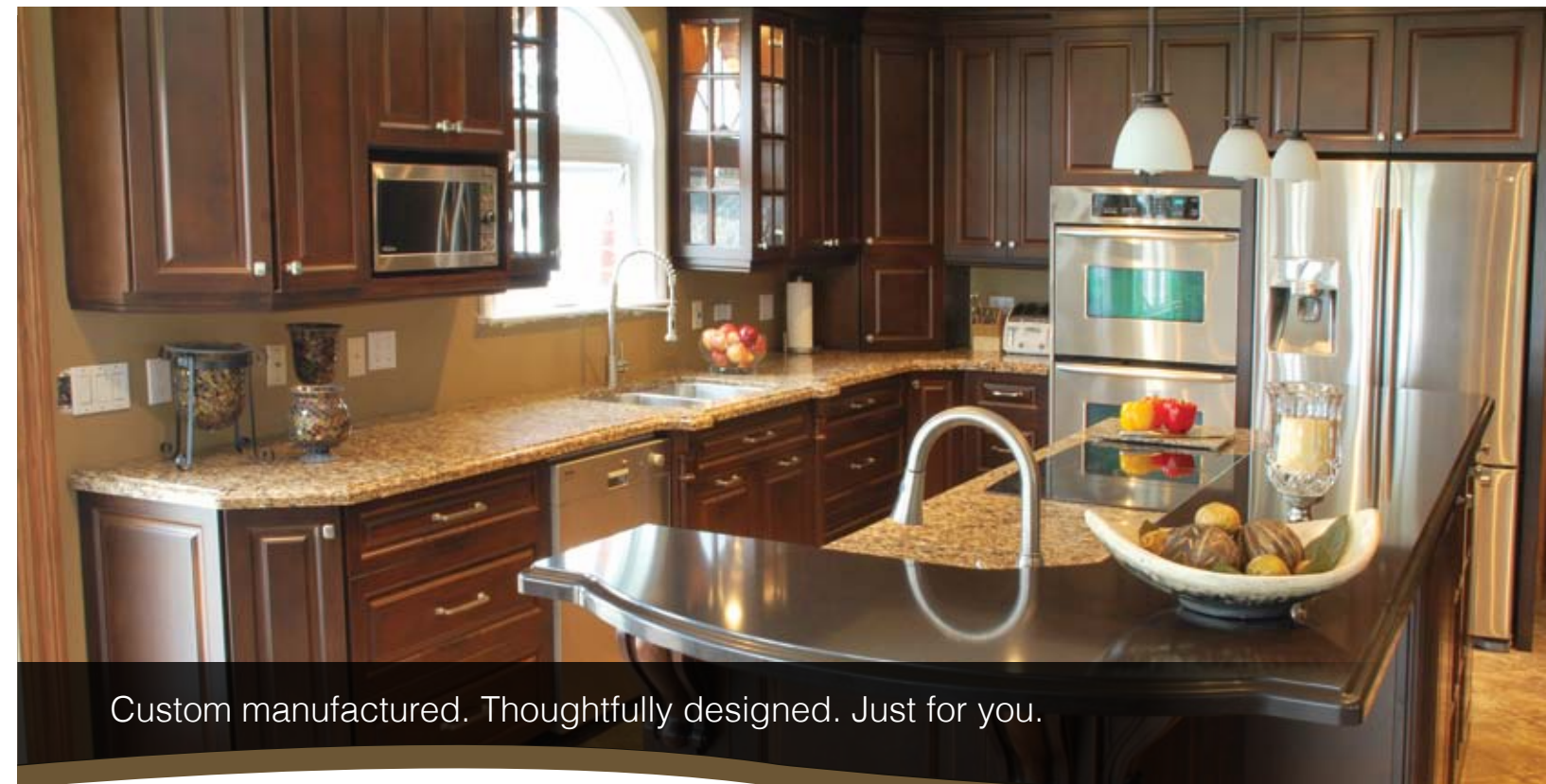
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◀ Bob Cline

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FAVOURITE APPLE DISHES: Apple pie of course! Apple strudel is tasty too, but I like apples best fresh off the tree and I eat applesauce every single day. **OH**

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(Please see ad on page 59)

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(Please see ad on page 59)



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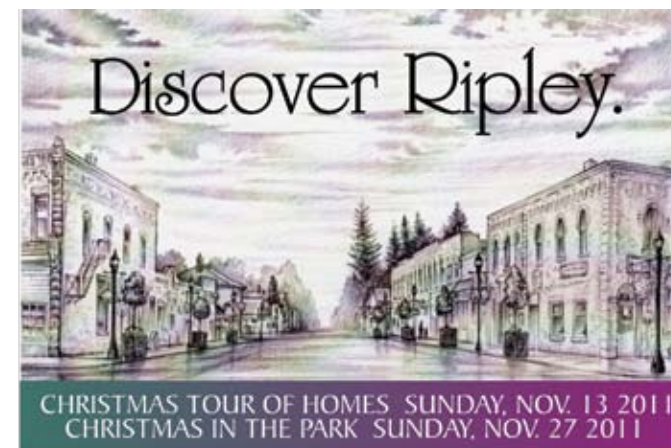
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THE COUNTY LINE: Comfortable yet classic lifestyle clothing for everyday or a weekend away. Tribal, Woolrich, French Dressing, Pure Knitwear, Lole and Softworks are just a few of the smart line we carry.

FANCY THAT: Canadian-made Tilley Hats for her, lifestyle clothing by Columbia, Neon Buddha, Killtec and the ever popular seamless collection by C'est Moi!

PEEK THRU MY WINDOW: (new to our shop) Anvil Island Design located on Vancouver Island, B.C. is home to the studio's workshop of metal artist Jack Willoughby. Whimsical designs using natural steel, oxidized steel and/or a black matte finish. Come have a peek!

Come Visit Us: Hours Mon-Sat 9-6. 17 Toronto St S, Markdale 519.986.4119 (Please see ad on page 59)



DISCOVER RIPLEY

Discover Christmas in Ripley. The 3rd Christmas Tour of Homes is scheduled for Sunday November 13th from 1-4 pm and 6-9 pm. This tour consists of eight gorgeous destinations festively decorated by a variety of professional decorators and local businesses. The final stop will feature homemade baked goods and warm cider for tour goer's enjoyment! Tickets are available in advance for \$15.00 at various locations.

Call 519.395.3735 for more information. Join us on Sunday, November 27th for Christmas in the Park. Parade begins at 6 pm, followed by the lighting of Lewis Park, chili, hot dogs, hayrides, free skating at the arena and a visit from Santa. (Please see ad on page 57)





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directory

OUR HOMES attracts the area’s finest businesses to advertise in our pages. Since our first issue, more than 400 companies have utilized our unparalleled distribution and coffee-table appeal to market their products and services. Now we’re making it easier than ever for you, our readers, to become educated as you plan your home- and real estate-related purchasing decisions. The listings below are organized alphabetically by industry.

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OUR HOMES is committed to ensuring the businesses above appear under the correct headings. To make a correction, or to have your business listed under more than one heading, please email us at bettyann@ourhomesmagazine.com. To have your business listed in our Home Resource Directory, call us to advertise at 519.986.2599.

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SURROUNDINGS IN MILDMAy

Surroundings is a charming gift and custom framing shop located in beautiful downtown Mildmay. Sherry Durrer and her staff are always ready to offer their creative ideas for your home or custom framing projects.

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Surroundings specializes in custom framing of keepsake items, prints, oils, watercolours and all types of needlework. Surroundings uses only acid-free products to preserve and protect your valuable art and shadow box treasures. They ensure all materials, objects and artwork brought into their shop are handled with respect and care. Surroundings frame shop uses a computerized matt cutter and specializes in collage framing of sports medals, antique pieces, war medals and family photos. Unique designs can be created using decorative matt corners, cut outs and layers of matting. Surroundings provides professional creative consultations and can assist you with your choices of matt colours and distinctive mouldings to best accent your art work.

The staff at Surroundings invite you to come in and browse through their gift shop and framing gallery. We look forward to seeing you!

Surround Yourself with Style at Surroundings!

58 Elora St, Mildmay
519.367.2636
www.surroundingsmildmay.ca
(Please see ad on page 39)



REALTORS®: A FAIR LTT REBATE FOR FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS

The first time home buyer land transfer tax (LTT) rebate is out of date. Due to increasing home prices, the rebate no longer covers the average LTT bill for first time home buyers. Instead, they pay almost \$1,500 in LTT after receiving the rebate.

REALTORS® believe that the first time buyers of today should not have to bear a heavier tax burden than previous generations. We believe that affordable home ownership is as important in 2011 as it was in 1996 when the LTT rebate program was first introduced.

From 1996 to 2010, the average price of a resale home in Ontario went up 120 per cent from \$155,725 to \$342,245. During the same period, the provincial government increased the LTT rebate by \$275 or just 16 per cent. As a result, a first time home buyer today in Ontario pays \$1,500 in LTT more than the previous generation on an average priced home after receiving the rebate.

REALTORS® are therefore urging all candidates running in the 2011 Ontario Election to support increasing the LTT rebate for first time



A MISCELLANY OF THE NEW, NEAT, UNIQUE, AND FABULOUS IN GREY AND BRUCE COUNTIES

home buyers from \$2,000 to \$3,500. This would return fairness to the LTT rebate program and allow present day first time home buyers to enjoy the same tax savings as buyers in previous years.

The Ontario LTT is paid on top of other closing costs such as legal fees, moving expenses, home inspection fees and mortgage insurance. Together, these closing costs eat away at a purchaser’s down payment, increasing the size of their mortgage principal.

The tax punishes young first time home buyers in particular because they pay the majority of their closing costs out of their own pocket, not from the proceeds of a previous home sale. As a result, closing costs, such as LTT, prevent some first time home buyers from entering the market altogether.

As a working REALTOR® I know the dream of home ownership among young Ontarians is as strong as it has ever been. Returning fairness to the LTT rebate program will go a long way towards ensuring that dream continues to flourish.
www.homeownershipmatters.ca
(Please see ad on page 45)

THE BRUCE BECKONS - 1979-2011

A beautifully restored log house north of Wiarton, located at 38 Beckons Lane, just off Hwy 6, is the setting for ‘The Bruce Beckons’. This quaint log farmhouse was originally built in Lévis, Quebec, between 1800 and 1803.



Gayle Thomas, owner of The Bruce Beckons, arranged to have the building dismantled and transported to its present site in 1996. There, it was faithfully restored, and sits peacefully amid bush and farmland. The property also provides a home for Hector the llama, goats, chickens, and pigeons. Two ponds are abundant with wildlife, and it is a haven for many species of wild birds, with several feeders always filled (all put in at night due to the local bear population!).

The Bruce Beckons is a place to spend a few quiet moments or an hour. The staff will greet you with a cup of coffee and friendly banter while you browse the shop or roam the grounds.

The log house is home to Canadian-made reproduction pine furniture (Camlen Furniture Co.), pewter jewellery, pottery, candles, polar fleece (all Canadian-made), bird feeders, and a large selection of other giftware. The Bruce Beckons is also well known for their homemade pickles, jams, relishes, and other preserves.

Take a step into the past where two provinces, Ontario and Quebec, are represented by buildings which give us a vision of a peaceful co-existence between two ways of life in the past and for the future.

38 Beckons Lane, Wiarton
519.534.1256 www.thebrucebeckons.ca
(Please see ad on page 13)

finishing touch

Twigs glued to a cardboard tube

Raffia, ribbon or fabric wrapped around a cardboard tube

Burn fabric edges to create flower petals

Beads on a wire

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